

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 NSC-05 PA-02 SS-15 USIA-15

PRS-01 /050 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:MAGMICHAUD:MHS

APPROVED BY EA/ANP:LJMOSER

S/CPR:HDAVIS (PHONE)

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R 282006Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

UNCLAS STATE 045709

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PP

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF PNG OFFICE IN WASHINGTON

REF: A. STATE 238989; B. STATE 252928

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY NOTE WHICH STATES (MINUS HONORIFICS):

QUOTE: THE EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE DEPARTMENT'S AIDE MEMOIRE OF 14 NOVEMBER 1974 IN WHICH IT MADE KNOWN ITS UNDERSTANDING OF THE STATUS OF A PAPUA NEW GUINEA OFFICE IN WASHINGTON BEFORE THE INDEPENDENCE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA. THIS UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED DURING CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN PAPUA NEW GUINEA REPRESENTATIVES AND DEPARTMENT OFFICERS ON 24 OCTOBER 1974.

FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA AUTHORITIES AND PURSUANT TO RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT THE EMBASSY OF AUSTRALIA WISHES FORMALLY TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PAPUA NEW
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GUINEA GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE'S OFFICE IN WASHINGTON.

IF THIS REQUEST IS APPROVED, IT IS ENVISAGED THAT A SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND TRADE WOULD ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON

ON 7 MARCH TO ASSIST IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, IT IS ENVISAGED THAT THREE OFFICERS OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND TRADE WOULD COMMENCE ASSIGNMENTS IN WASHINGTON. THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA AUTHORITIES EXPECT THAT THE HEAD OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE'S OFFICE, MR. J. MATANE, WOULD ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ON 20 APRIL 1975.

THE EMBASSY WISHES TO CONFIRM ITS UNDERSTANDING THAT BETWEEN THE TIME OF HIS ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON AND THE DATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S INDEPENDENCE, MR. MATANE WOULD BE DESIGNATED FORMALLY AS MINISTER FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA AFFAIRS IN THIS EMBASSY AND WOULD ALSO HAVE THE FUNCTIONAL TITLE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE. OTHER PAPUA NEW GUINEA OFFICERS WOULD BE GIVEN APPROPRIATE DESIGNATIONS WITHIN THIS EMBASSY. END QUOTE.

2. DEPARTMENT WILL SEND POSITIVE REPLY TO AUSTRALIAN NOTE ASAP. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, DIPLOMATIC MISSION OPENING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE045709
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MAGMICHAUD:MHS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750073-0240
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975022/aaaaaazy.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 238989, 75 STATE 252928
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESTABLISHMENT OF PNG OFFICE IN WASHINGTON
TAGS: PFOR, PP, US
To: CANBERRA PORT MORESBY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006